CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY
BOX 150 • 308 WESTWOOD PLAZA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

STEVEN J. BURTON, National Chairman

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jim Garrison
FROM: Steven J. Burton
SUBJECT: Interview of Lawrence Howard, Jr. (#3)

SUMMARY:

During this interview, HOWARD provided information on BOB BROWN, STEVE WIBSON, DENNIS PARKER, ED COLLINS, ALEXANDER RORKE, CLETE or CLINT WHEAT, LORAN EUGENE HALL, EDGAR EUGENE BRADLEY, LESLIE BRADLEY, GUY GABALDON, WALLY WELCH or WALSH, HOWARD DAVIS, and GERRY PATRICK HEMMING.

Most notable were his revelations that 1) he met Bradley once and 2) RORKE, HEMMING, AND HOWARD DAVIS were in Mexico around the same time that LEE HARVEY OSWALD was.

THE INTERVIEW:

I have established a good, friendly relationship with HOWARD. He said explicitly that he has taken a liking to me and has given me information that he has given to no one else. Again, he reiterated that he knows of many more people involved in anti-Castro activities whose names he will not bring up first, but if I brigg them up, he will tell everything.

HOWARD also reiterated that he would like very much to help in the investigation and is anxious to go to New Orleans soon.

I showed HOWARD blow ups, out of context, of the Cuban-looking man who was arrested in Dallas on November 22, 1963. He said that the man looked very familiar although he could not place him. I gave him copies of the prints which he will show to 'friends', presumably GERRY PATRICK HEMMING and GUY GABALDON, to try and identify the man. I did not tell him what the context was. (You should know that one of our members has located this Cuban in the crowd in the Altgens photo and he appears to be holding a two way radio to his mouth.)

In interview #2, Howard mentioned a pilot named MOLINA who flew several people to New York. He said that this was not Joe MOLINA,

who appears in WR 237-8, 6H368-373, CE 1381, CE 1937, CE 1970, CE 2036, CE 2049, CE 2065, CE 2144, CE 2186, CE 3132. See my memo on JOE R. MOLINA.

He also said that ~~this xqaxnex~~ FRANCISCO MOLINA, a person mentioned in Cuba, the U.S., and the U.S.S.R. as being pro-Castro, was not the MOLINA he was referring to. He then remembered that this pilot was ENRIQUE MOLINA. HEMMING'S letter to 'DICK' (2/3/63) identifies MOLINA as ENRIQUE MOLINA RIVERA of FAR.

I then showed HOWARD the attached FBI Report on Robert Kenneth BROWN & SA Charles Paul Rose at Columbus, Georgia, 12/4/63) and asked him about BROWN. He produced the attached article by BROWN on anti-Castro raiders and told me that he had known BROWN. He said that BROWN had visited him recently and was currently attached to U.S. Special Forces.

Of more interest to HOWARD was the reference to STEVE WILSON in the aforementioned FBI report. He said that WILSON was never a writer of any kind. He said that WILSON was with HOWARD in Los Angeles in 1963 and attended several right-wing meetings with HOWARD to raise supplies for the raids. HOWARD said that WILSON returned to Miami by way of Denver, Colorado.

HOWARD thought it possibly significant that one DENNIS PARKER, who translated a book on guerilla warfare for BOB BROWN was a homosexual. He said that PARKER had lived with ED COLLINS, a skin diver who drowned under mysterious circumstances, for quite a while.

HOWARD said that HOWARD DAVIS, a close friend of GERRY PATRICK HEMMING's, had been RAUL CASTRO'S personal pilot at one time. He said that DAVIS' background was similar to HEMMING'S and that DAVIS flew HEMMING, WILSON, and others to Guatemala in October, 1963. They were ostensibly searching for ALEXANDER RORKE.

HOWARD then disclosed, after requesting that the tape recorder be stopped, that RORKE, HEMMING, WILSON, and/or DAVIS were in Mexico "at the same time someone else was". It was obvious while questioning him further that he was referring to OSWALD'S trip in late September, 1963 although he was uncertain of the time. He further said that RORKE'S plane crashed in Mexico in 1963 and identified RORKE as a free-lance writer with both Castro ties and anti-Castro ties. (In a confidential letter I have from HEMMING to 'DICK' dated February 3, 1963, HEMMING identifies RORKE as a "phony". I presume that you have a copy of this letter in your files.)

HOWARD identified the owner of a house on Lafayette Terrace in Los Angeles, where paramilitary organizations held meetings and prepared ammunition, as one CLETE or CLINT WHEAT.

After requesting that the tape be stopped, HOWARD said that he once met GENE BRADLEY ~~at this house on Lafayette Terrace.~~ in Court. He said that,

subjectively, BRADLEY struck him as a man who believed in action. On tape, I did get him to say,

"I think I'll just say this much; that Mr. Bradley is, uh, my personal opinion of him is, uh, that he was a doer instead of a talker. That's all I will say. I am in no way implying anything, uh, he just struck me as a man that, uh, could handle himself in any situation. I could be way off base, but this is just the impression I got."

Q. "Tell me if you want me to turn it off -- did he strike you as being in any way violent or, uh, aggressive because his press relations are, uh, a marvel. He strikes everyone as a real quiet guy?"

"Yes, with his character and all, but underneath I would say that I could detect that he could be a very capable aggressive and competant man."

In further conversation, HOWARD stated that he had recently talked with a man (Gerry Patrick?) who was in jail with LESLIE BRADLEY in Cuba in 1961. The man did not indicate that LESLIE BRADLEY looked like GENE BRADLEY but HOWARD will check this with him. I gave him a photo of GENE BRADLEY to help the identifiaation.

HOWARD also remembered a WALLY WELCH or WALSH who ran an employment agency in Dallas. He said that HALL had gone to see him when they were in Dallas together.

HOWARD stated that he first met GUY GABALDON in 1961. GABALDON ran an anti-Castro office in Los Angeles and headed the "Drive against Communist Aggression" (DACA). HOWARD said that he is a very close friend of GABALDON'S and doubted that GABALDON could possibly be involved "in this" at all. HOWARD said that LORAN EUGENE HALL was GABALDON'S campaign manager when GABALDON ran for Congress in 1964.

ANALYSIS:

I am still not certain that HOWARD is telling what he tells straight, but I tend to think that he is. He has given me too much information, including the enclosed memo from JERRY PATRICK HEMMING to MIGUEL FUENTES, President of Guatemala (11/Dec/62) which contains background information on HEMMING and ROBERT K. BROWN, phtos of the instructors at No Name Key, and samples of his and Seymour's handwriting, for me to reject him out of hand.

Steven J. Burton
February 19, 1968